

Projects will not require prior approval of Central Government if specific orders for dereservation or diversion of forest areas were issued prior to

25.10.1980.

(b) to (d) : When project proposals are submitted complete in all respects conforming to the prescribed guidelines, such cases are quickly disposed of and they do not lead to cost over runs. Incomplete proposals are referred back to the State Government for furnishing lacking essential details.

Permission can be granted on merits only after complete information is furnished by the State Government regarding proposals for forest diversion under the Act.

(e) and (f) : A Statement is attached.

Statement

(e) Sarkaria Commission made certain recommendations in respect of forests. Relevant paras are reproduced as under :—

15.5.01 : In view of a large number of cases referred under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 having been 'closed' there is need for reviewing them to identify the reasons. A senior officer of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Wildlife should examine all such cases which have been disposed of as 'closed', identify the reasons and inform the States. Cases which are required to be followed by the States should be reopened and decided on their merits after discussion with the representatives of the concerned State Governments.

15.5.02 : Powers should be delegated to the States to divert, to a small extent, say not exceeding 5 hectares of reserved forest lands, which are urgently required for specific public purposes.

15.5.03 : Conservation and improvement of forest resources is of

utmost importance to the nation. A concerted action by both the Union and the States is imperative. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure that development efforts are not hampered. A bi-annual review of pending cases should be carried out in consultation with each State Government concerned. This occasion should also be utilised for reviewing the sanctions by virtue of powers recommended by us to be delegated to them.

15.5.04 : In the case of large projects involving significant extent of submersion of reserved forests, their diversion to non-forest uses, clearance under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, should be given as far as possible simultaneously with project clearance by the Union Government. Agency of the Union Government may be associated from the beginning with the formulation of the project so that adequate measures not only to compensate for the loss of reserved forests but also to improve forest resources, can be built into them *ab-initio*.

(f) *Present status regarding Implementation of Recommendations of Sarkaria Commission :* The report of the Sarkaria Commission on forests is being examined by the Government. At present the matter is referred to the Inter-State Council to elicit their views on the report.

[Translation]

Increase of Seats at Indian Institutes of Technology

*198. **Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria :** Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of seats in certain subjects at the Indian Institutes of Technology situated at

Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Kanpur and Kharagpur in the current academic session ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

The Minister of Human Resource Development (Shri Arjun Singh) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Each Indian Institute of Technology evaluates and monitors all its programmes from time to time and decides well in advance of commencement of the academic session the intake in each course. Any change in the number of seats in various programmes conducted at these Institutes is made keeping in view the optimal utilisation of the infrastructural facilities, such as classrooms, hostel accommodation, faculty strength, etc.

[English]

Recognition to Trichur Medical College, Kerala

*199. **Prof. K. V. Thomas :** Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to recognise the Trichur Medical College, Kerala ;

(b) if so, by when ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

The Minister of Health and Family Welfare (Shri M. L. Fotedar) :

(a) to (c) : The Medical College, Trichur, affiliated to Calicut University, Kerala, was granted temporary recognition by the Medical Council of India for three years, namely, 1988, 1989 and 1990 in respect of the M.B.B.S. degree awarded by Calicut University.

For the purpose of granting permanent recognition, an inspection was carried out on behalf of the Medical Council of India in July, 1991. The Council has informed that

the inspection report is pending for consideration by the Executive Committee/Council. The various Committees of the Council are not functioning at present in compliance of orders of the Delhi High Court. The matter is pending consideration in the Supreme Court. Further action will be taken by the Government on receipt of the recommendation of the Medical Council of India in this regard.

[Translation]

Setting up of Medical Colleges in Uttar Pradesh

*200. **Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar :** Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state the names of the places in Uttar Pradesh where Medical Colleges are proposed to be set up during the Eighth Five Year Plan ?

The Minister of Health and Family Welfare (Shri M. L. Fotedar) : The Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that owing to paucity of resources with the State Government, there is no proposal to set up Government Medical colleges anywhere in the State at present.

Ayurvedic Herbs around Chitrakoot District Banda

*201. **Shri Rajendra Agnihotri :** Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the presence of Ayurvedic herbs in and around Chitrakoot, District Banda of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been drawn for identification and conservation of these herbs ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

The Minister of Health and Family Welfare (Shri M. L. Fotedar) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) : A Medico-Botanical Survey team from the Regional